



CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

# NEWS Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **LOGISTICS CRITICAL TO KATRINA SUPPORT MISSION**

**BELLE CHASSE NAVAL AIR STATION, LA.** – The supply and logistics professionals of the California National Guard are sending and distributing life-sustaining supplies to support the Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

The Joint Task Force California logistics team is supporting the Soldiers and Airman with food and water, vehicles, ice, portable toilets, pens and markers and more.

“We just have to make sure the soldier has what they need,” said U.S. Army Maj. Louise Goodwater, purchasing agent. “Some things are costly, but you can’t put a budget line on a mission like this. That’s like putting a budget on war.”

California’s 730-plus Soldiers and Airmen consume about 800 cases of pre-packed food a week, says U.S. Army Master Sgt. Rea Cichocki, Joint Task Force California’s logistics noncommissioned officer in charge. Each case contains 24 pre-packed items.

Soldier-care has the highest priority. Goodwater recently purchased four washers, four dryers, fans, decontamination items -- such as bleach and alcohol -- and tools and materials to build portable showers. One day’s cost: \$6,000.

“The washer and dryer, that’s a health issue,” Goodwater explained. “Soldiers can’t keep their bodies clean if they wear dirty clothes.” Clothes, uniforms and boots are next on the priority logistics line.

The California Guard is also using more than 100 vehicles including HMMWV’s (high mobility vehicles, or humvees), 2 ½- to 10-ton trucks, fuelers, wreckers and two light armored vehicles (LAVs).

“We’re providing all that’s needed to operate and be safe,” said U.S. Army Major Mile Lovings, logistics officer. “To take 700 people with all life support systems takes time. But we’re 10 days into the operation. And we’re operating at a successful level.”